



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 August 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
22 AUGUST 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ky is still trying to build a core of political supporters for use in the future. He is doing this primarily because he thinks that once Thieu is elected, the president will begin cutting away at Ky's power.

Ky has told a US official he will announce "later" that he and Thieu, if elected, will offer government jobs to some of their competitors. Ky singled out Tran Van Huong, the leading civilian candidate for president, as one of these. He added that he and Thieu expect to get a maximum of about fifty percent of the vote.

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2. Congo

Negotiations to get the mercenaries into Rwanda and then home are continuing. Schramme is said to have signed two documents agreeing to the plan, and the Congo appears willing to accept these as some sort of surrender. There is apparently still hope that President Kayibanda of Rwanda can be persuaded to go along.

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3. Sino-Soviet Relations

Moscow, apparently seriously nettled by the recent harassment of Soviet ships in the Chinese port of Dairen, fired off another protest note on Sunday. This note--the fifth on the subject since the Svirsk incident on 11 August--claims that two other Soviet ships have since left Dairen without unloading because of "continuing troubles" with Chinese authorities.

This latest note, like Kosygin's protest to Chou En-lai, hints at a break in trade relations. This is about the only club (and a small one at that) Moscow can still shake at Peking.

4. Nigeria

Biafran forces are trying for a knockout in the Western state before Lagos' newly acquired equipment can be put to use. The Biafrans have moved some 20 miles into the West, and federal leaders are worried.

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5. Pakistan-India

President Ayub's public charge yesterday that India is "massing" troops on West Pakistan's border is unfounded. There are indeed some Indian troop movements near the border, but these are normal rotations.

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Things are calm in the area along the ceasefire line where trouble appeared to be building up last week, even though Pakistani units have not withdrawn from positions UN observers say belong to India. There are no indications that India is preparing to oust these units by force.

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